

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A proctoscope comprising a proctoscope body (12, 16, 20) which is hollow-cylindrical and is to be inserted into a patient's anus, said proctoscope body having a tapering at a distal end portion, an opening (18) at the other end and a handle portion (14), wherein the proctoscope body has a hole to form an operation window (22) toward a free interior space of the proctoscope body, and means (28, 32) for illuminating the operation window and/or means (24) for detecting vessels by means of sensors are provided in the proctoscope body, wherein the operation window (22) is formed in an outer wall of the proctoscope body such that it extends into the tapering distal end portion (20), and wherein the operation window (22) is formed as a cut-out in the hollow-cylindrical proctoscope body and in the tapering distal end portion.

2. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, further including a manually operable obturator (36) for insertable cooperation with the proctoscope body and is adapted to the free interior space such that, when the obturator is inserted into the proctoscope body through the opening (18), a closure portion (46) of the obturator at least partially closes off the operation window (22).

3. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the obturator has a handle portion (42) which in the

inserted state protrudes out of the opening, and the closure portion (46) is designed as a tongue-like extension of an essentially cylindrical obturator casing (38).

4. (canceled).

5. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the operation window opens up a free hole area of 350 to 400 mm² in the outer wall of the proctoscope body.

6. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sensor comprises a duplex or ultrasound sensor (24) which is permanently installed in a wall portion of the proctoscope body adjacent to the operation window, wherein said sensor is connected to vessel detection electronics provided outside the casing of the proctoscope body.

7. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the handle portion is designed as a grip (14) at the opening end of the proctoscope body, said grip being angled with respect to the proctoscope body and forming a hollow space for the passage of supply lines (26) for the illuminating and/or vessel detection means and further indicating a circumferential position of the vessel detection means on the proctoscope body.

8. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for illuminating comprises lighting means (32) directed onto the operation window provided in the tapering end portion.

9. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein a mirror and/or reflector element (30) is provided in

the tapering end portion such that an observer can see the operation window (22) from the opening (18).

10. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the mirror and/or reflector element (30) is light-permeable to the lighting means (32) provided behind it.

11. (previously presented) A method of operating the proctoscope as claimed in claim 1, including the steps of:

- closing the operation window in the proctoscope body;
- inserting the proctoscope body into a patient's anus;
- detecting blood vessels by means of ultrasound Doppler sonography and orienting the proctoscope body in reaction to the detection; and
- opening the operation window.